



Science and Public Policy
Program
BARNARD COLLEGE

Q & A

What is SCPP?

The Science and Public Policy Program at Barnard provides a space for students to explore and critically analyze the moral and ethical issues that arise at the intersection of science, public policy, and societal concerns. SCPP offers a minor in Science and Public Policy. All students are welcome and encouraged to pursue the SCPP minor.

What does the minor in Science and Public Policy entail?

The minor in Science and Public Policy requires five courses total: two core SCPP seminars, one introductory course in philosophy, and two additional courses. Please visit our webpage to view all of the courses that satisfy SCPP requirements (<http://catalog.barnard.edu/barnard-college/courses-instruction/science-public-policy/#requirements>). SCPP course requirements do not have to be fulfilled in any particular order.

What is the nature of the SCPP core seminar courses?

For the SCPP core seminar courses, we strive to strike a balance between understanding the science related to a particular topic and discussing the larger societal implications of these topics. These courses are intended to provide a space to learn, discuss, and analyze the topics in a holistic and approachable way. Please note that previous college science coursework is not a requirement for SCPP core seminars.

When do students typically begin working on the minor?

Students are welcome to begin working on the minor at any time as long as you are able to successfully complete it before graduation. It is best to prioritize registering for the SCPP core seminars early on since these courses have smaller class sizes and may not be offered as frequently as other courses. It is a good idea to create a rough outline of the courses you are considering taking during your time at Barnard. Sketching out a plan can help you fulfill all of your graduation requirements with relative ease. Many of the SCPP courses also fulfill Foundation requirements.

What courses do you recommend for first-years?

Any course that interests you! If there are any introductory courses that cover topics of interest to you or courses that may be pre-requisites for other SCPP courses you would like to take, these can be great options to consider early on. Fulfilling the introductory philosophy requirement for SCPP is also a great way to start. The intention of the philosophy requirement

is to help you learn how to think critically about an issue from multiple perspectives and how to analyze and structure an argument. SCPP core seminars are suitable for first-years, however, they can be difficult to register for depending on the number of juniors/seniors who need the seminars to graduate.

Several of the SCPP courses are 3000 level courses. Does this mean that they are only suitable for juniors and seniors?

Courses that are identified as 3000 level courses are not necessarily meant for only juniors and seniors. In fact, some 3000 level courses are suitable for first-years and sophomores. For instance, Introduction to Public Health (PUBH UN3200) is an introductory course suitable for first-years. Topics in Neuroethics (NSBV-BC3387) has some prerequisites making it more suitable for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. To decide whether a course is right for you, see if the course has any pre-requisites, read the course description, and ask the professor of the course for advice. Please note that the SCPP core seminar courses are suitable for any class year.

How do I declare a Science & Public Policy minor?

To declare a SCPP minor, the Minor Election Form must be submitted to the Registrar's Office no later than March 1st of your senior year. When you submit the form, all courses counting for the minor must be "in progress" or completed. For more information about how to declare a minor, please visit: <https://barnard.edu/degreerequirements>. For any further questions, please refer to your class dean and Prof. Morton.

Could students take SCPP courses just for fun without pursuing the minor?

Yes! Taking courses that satisfy SCPP requirements does not mean you are obligated to complete the minor.

What are some popular majors taken with SCPP?

Excellent question! Currently, we do not have this data. We welcome and encourage anyone who is interested in the minor to pursue it.

Do any of the SCPP courses satisfy Foundations Requirements?

Yes! Many of the courses offered as part of the SCPP minor count for Foundations requirements. To identify which ones, please check with Snowbird (https://snowbird.barnard.edu/pls/bcapp/mybc_courses_fd_reqmts.courses_fd_reqmts).

Do any courses on Columbia's campus satisfy SCPP requirements?

Yes! Several Columbia courses satisfy SCPP requirements. To view the complete list of courses that satisfy SCPP requirements, please visit the SCPP webpage: <http://catalog.barnard.edu/barnard-college/courses-instruction/science-public-policy/#requirementstext>.